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Message Text

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17
ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

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R 090909Z MAY 75
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1016

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAIR, IT
SUBJECT: CIVAIR

REF: ROME 6038

1. DURING MAY 6 CALL AT MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MFA), EMBOFF DISCUSSED PROPOSED TAKEOVER OF GROUND SERVICES AT ROME AIRPORTS BY ROME AIRPORTS AUTHORITY (SAR) WITH MFA REP FIACCADORI (DIRECTOR, CIVAIR AFFAIRS).

2. FIACCADORI HAD RECENTLY RECEIVED FROM WASHINGTON TEXT OF NOTE DELIVERED BY ASST SECY ENDERS TO AMB ORTONA ON TICKET BOOTHS AT FIUMICINO. MFA MUCH IMPRESSED WITH SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH USG VIEWS SITUATION. FIACCADORI SAID SEVERAL OTHER GOVERNMENTS HAVE FORMALLY OBJECTED TO PROPOSED TAKEOVER AS DISCRIMINATORY AND MONOPOLISTIC. MFA HAS THEREFORE RECOMMENDED GOI RESTUDY ENTIRE SAR GROUND SERVICES SITUATION BECAUSE OF IMPACT PROPOSED TAKEOVER MAY HAVE ON ITALY'S RELATIONS WITH FRIENDLY GOVERNMENTS AND ALITALIA'S OPERATIONS ABROAD.

3. BOTH PAA AND TWA HAVE NOW DECIDED TURN OVER GROUND SERVICES PERSONNEL, EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES TO SAR AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. SAR HAS SET NO DATE FOR TAKEOVER, HOWEVER, BECAUSE OF INABILITY ABOSRB ALL GROUND SERVICES PERSONNEL AT ONCE AND MFA'S INTERVENTION. EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS PAA AND TWA WOULD BE
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SATISFIED WITH GOI DECISION WHICH WOULD PERMIT CONTINUED

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OPERATION TICKET BOOTHS AT FIUMICINO AND RIGHT TO OBTAIN IN-FLIGHT CATERING FROM OFF-AIRPORT VENDOR IF AIRLINE SO DESIRES. WOULD SUCH SETTLEMENT SATISFY USG INTERESTS, ASSUMING SAR ALSO TAKES OVER OPERATION ALITALIA GROUND SERVICES WITHIN THREE YEARS?

4. COMMENT. DESPITE MFA INTERVENTION, EMBASSY SEES NO RPT NO CHANCE THAT UNIONS WOULD AGREE TO LET FOREIGN CARRIERS CONTINUE TO PROVIDE OWN GROUND SERVICES, EXCEPT PERHAPS FOR TIACKET BOOTHS AND OFF-AIRPORT IN-FLIGHT CATERING. ONLY OTHER NEGOTIABLE ISSUE APPEARS TO BE TIMING OF TAKEOVER, SINCE SAR OBVIOUSLY UNABLE ABSORB ALL PERSONNEL IN ORDERLY MANNER BEFORE UNIONS' JUNE 30, 1975 DEADLINE. UNIONS APPEAR UNCONCERNED ABOUT ALITALIA, SINCE IT TAKES RAMP AND HANDLING SERVICES FROM SAR IN ANY CASE AND IS ALSO STATE (IRI) COMPANY, AS IS SAR. VOLPE

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